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WU Record

Published for the Washington University Community

February 27, 1975

WU Anthropologist Seeks To Preserve Primitive Lemurs

By James C. Burkham

The gentle lemur, one of man's oldest living primate ancestors, who still frolics through the kily trees of far-off Madagascar, is threatened with extinction.

Robert W. Sussman, assistant professor of anthropology, in pioneering an unexplored path of scientific investigation, is devising a program to save the lemur. His observations of the animal have established him as one of the world's foremost authorities on the subject.

The lemur, a friendly creature with an even disposition, has huge pop eyes and a fox-like face. He is found in his native environment only on the island of Madagascar. The winsome lemur can trace his ancestry back 60 million years when, during the Eocene period, he roamed every part of the earth.

Since that time, seemingly in defiance of evolution, the lemur has remained relatively unchanged anatomically. The lemur owes his isolated existence to a quirk of nature. It is speculated that many million years ago Madagascar was part of Africa. During that period, lemurs were the only primates alive. Man and his anthropoid relatives, the great apes, had not yet evolved from



Professor Sussman offers food to a lemur.

(Continued on page 2)

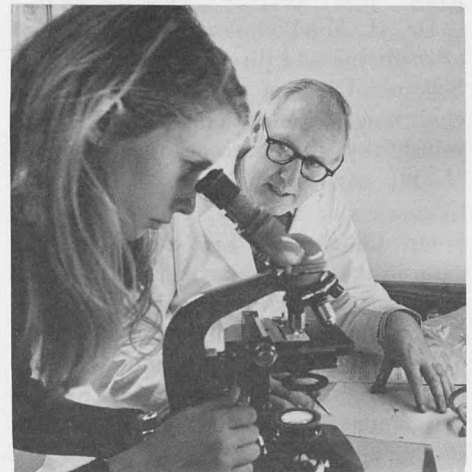
Cowan Named Director of University's Division of Biology & Biomedical Sciences

Dr. William Maxwell Cowan, professor and head of the Washington University School of Medicine's Department of Anatomy, has been named Director of the University's Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, it was announced by Chancellor William H. Danforth. The division is responsible for helping to better coordinate the efforts of faculty on the Hilltop and Medical campuses who are engaged in the teaching of undergraduate, graduate and medical students, and in research in the biological sciences.

Cowan is replacing Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, who resigned effective June 1 to accept a position as senior vice president for research of the Merck, Sharpe and Dohme Research Laboratories, N.J.

"The University is fortunate that a teacher and scientist of Dr. Cowan's international stature will direct one of our most important divisions, which Dr. Vagelos has headed so capably during its first year and a half," Danforth said. "The Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences is a pioneering effort in the field of higher education. It bridges the gap between the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine, bringing increased depth and versatility to the training of students on both campuses. Dr. Cowan has been one of the innovators in the division, having organized and, with his colleagues, taught an outstanding course in neurobiology to undergraduates," Danforth said.

"The formation of the new division is one of the most challenging developments in the biological sciences at Washington University in many years," Cowan said. "The scope of study and research open to the students of biology at Washington University is tremendous, ranging all the way from ecology and plant biology at one end of the spectrum, to molecular biology and biophysics at the other. The net effect of the reorganization has been to open up this diversity to all students because the efforts of about 130 faculty members drawn from the seven basic sci-



Professor Maxwell Cowan and student Sandra Spaulding in anatomy laboratory class.

(Photo by Herb Weitman)

ence departments at the Medical School and the Department of Biology are now coordinated within a single division." The division, formed in 1973, includes the Department of Biology on the University's main campus and the Medical School departments of Anatomy, Biological Chemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology and Biophysics.

A native of Johannesburg, South Africa, Cowan first joined the Medical School faculty in 1964 as a visiting associate professor of anatomy. He taught at the University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine from 1966-1968, when he was named to his present position.

Cowan received his bachelor's degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, and his Ph.D. and M.D. degrees from the University of Oxford, England.

Cowan is a member of a number of scientific societies, including the Royal Microscopical Society, the American Association of Anatomists and the Society for Neuroscience. He also has served on the National Eye Institute's Board of Scientific Counselors. He is president of the St. Louis Society of Neurological Sciences and managing editor of the *Journal of Comparative Neurology*.

Effectiveness of Early Treatment of Mild Hypertension To Be Tested in National Study

By Sharon Murphy

(WU Medical School Newswriter)

WU's School of Medicine is one of 24 medical centers throughout the country participating in a multi-million dollar study to determine whether early detection and treatment of mildly high blood pressure in young and middle aged people can prevent the development of more severe hypertension, heart and kidney disease, and strokes in later life.

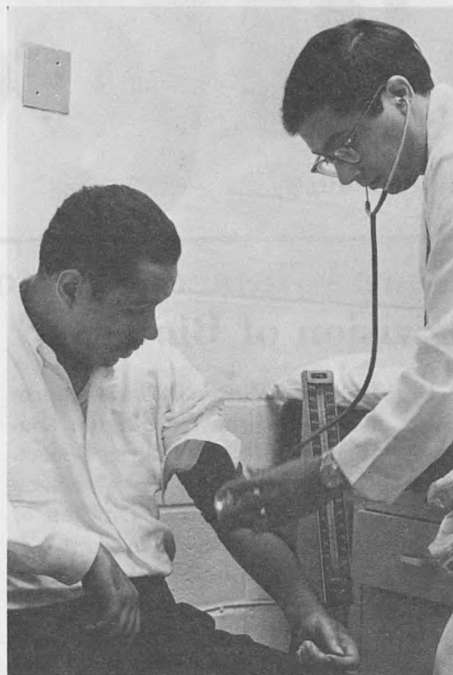
Dr. H. Mitchell Perry, Jr., professor of medicine and director of the Medical School's Division of Hypertension, is chairman of the national study, funded jointly by the National Institutes of Health and the Veterans Administration.

Dr. Charles W. Lee, research associate in the WU Department of Internal Medicine and coordinator of the St. Louis study, said that most research on hypertension has been done on more severe high blood pressure. "This research program should provide some statistical data to indicate that early treatment of hypertension can prevent needless disabilities, and, in some instances, premature death."

"There are two parts to the study," Lee said. "The first segment is a two-year feasibility trial, which is being done in four of the centers (Birmingham, Iowa City, Oklahoma City and St. Louis). The St. Louis Study Center (along with the other three) is screening people in search of 400 men and women between ages 21-49 who have mildly elevated blood pressure, but are otherwise healthy," Lee said. The purpose of the feasibility trial is to see if enough subjects can be identified and to test each person's compliance to instructions, as well as the design of the study.

Researchers are asking businesses and community groups to allow them to come in and check the blood pressure of willing employees and members. Those who qualify in this initial test are then asked to make several visits to the center to have their average blood pressure determined and to test their suitability for the study. Those accepted are required to return periodically for follow-up care.

The subjects are divided into two groups. One receives medication which has been proven effective in more severe cases of high blood pressure. The other is given placebos (pills containing no active ingredient) under careful observation. This is known as a double blind study in which neither the subjects nor



Early treatment of hypertension should lead to the prevention of disabilities.

the investigators know who is receiving medication and who gets the placebos.

The two-year feasibility trials will end in November, 1975. Then what is called the major study will begin. The other 20 centers will take one year screening for 400 subjects each. Then there will be a five-year follow-up of the treatment at all 24 centers. The four centers which served as models for the study will continue to watch the progress of the original volunteers.

Persons who are interested in participating in the study should call 652-4100, ext. 551 or 552.

New Graduate Drama Program To Be Implemented Next Fall

A new graduate program combining advanced studies in dramatic literature and theatrical production will be offered by Washington University for the first time next fall. In announcing the establishment of the program leading to a master of arts degree in literature and drama, Richard Palmer, chairman of the Performing Arts Area at the University, said that "to our knowledge, there is no other graduate level program like it in the country."

Approaching drama both within the context of its literary tradition and its stage environment in the course of study, candidates will take half their courses under the direction of the Performing Arts Area and half under the auspices of a language or literature department.

Lemurs

(Continued from page 1)

their lemuroid ancestry. Because of their unique isolation, lemurs offer insights into man's evolution.

Sussman, backed by graduate fellowships and research grants, has spent more than two of the last five years, often in the wilds of Madagascar spying on the lemur and keeping a detailed diary on his behavior. Armed with field glasses, tape recorders, cameras and miner's headlamps for night observation, Sussman often could peer at the lemur at a distance of four feet.

Sussman studied three of the 20 known species of lemur. These include the ring tail lemur, occasionally found in larger zoos, the brown lemur, almost exclusively a tree-dweller and the mongoose lemur. He discovered that the mongoose lemur, a nectar feeder, actually functioned as the pollinator of the kapok tree, the tree which supplies the material for life jackets and sound insulation.

These findings will be part of an ambitious new book which Sussman is co-authoring and co-editing with Ian Tattersall of the American Museum of Natural History. The book, *Lemur Biology*, to be published by the Plenum Press this June, will be the most comprehensive work yet published on man's knowledge of the lemur. More than 20 of the world's leading primatologists have contributed their latest findings in their own fields of investigation.

One of the most provocative sections of the book focuses on the lemur as an endangered species. Some of the factors which Sussman, and Professor Alison Richard of Yale University, identify as threatening the future of lemurs are: Madagascar's population explosion; man's exploitation of the forests; leveling the tree cover for oil drilling, and hunting. To arrest the possible destruction of the lemur, the scientists recommend expanding programs of education for the Malagasy people, further establishment of protected wild life shelters and stricter, more efficient hunting legislation. Sussman is seeking National Science Foundation support to draw up a detailed plan to ensure the lemur's survival.

The statue of Robert Burns which stands in the southeast corner of WU's campus, facing Skinker Boulevard, was presented to the University by the Burns Club of St. Louis in 1928. The club commissioned New York sculptor Robert Aiken to do the work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A STAFF WOMEN'S LOUNGE has been established on the third floor of the Women's Building by the Staff Women's Group, an organization recently formed to meet the needs of female staff members. The lounge is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with informal meetings scheduled in the lounge every Wednesday at 12 noon.

A questionnaire survey has been circulated among staff women to determine interest in the new group and in such proposals as a day care center on campus, luncheon events, and weekend activities. For further information contact Lynn Swaim, 863-0100, ext. 4542.

THE WU RESEARCH OFFICE has received several publications which may be helpful to investigators seeking support for their research activities. The publications include: *Public Health Service Profiles for Grant Programs*, *Descriptions of NIH Collaborative Programs*, *National Science Foundation Guide to Programs*, *Annual Register of Grant Support*, and *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*. For further information, call the Research Office, 863-0100, ext. 4141.

STUDENTS who will complete their sophomore year this semester may qualify for entry into WU's advanced Army ROTC program by attending a special six-week course at Ft. Knox, Ky., this summer. The course will be offered three times: May 30, June 20 and July 17. Women may attend the June 20 session, and must enroll by March 1. Men may register until May 1. For further information, call 863-0100, ext. 4662.

THE WU OBSERVATORY atop Crow Hall will be open from 7-10 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings during good weather. If doubtful about weather conditions, please call 863-0100, ext. 4093, at 7 p.m. or shortly after on the above evenings to determine if the observatory is open for viewing.

The **WU Record** is published weekly during the academic year by the Office of Information, director, Roger Signor; editor, Kathy Pearson; contributing editors, Dorothy Brockhoff, King McElroy; calendar editor, Anne Hallett. Photographs by Herb Weitman, Rick Levine and Gail Cissna. Address all communications to the editor, Box 1142.



WU law students Margaret Zonia Morrison (left) and Marilyn Kueper counsel a prisoner at the St. Louis County jail as part of a legal assistance program. The students counsel the prisoners only with their civil law problems. The present program is an outgrowth of another University program in which some women students extended legal assistance to inmates in the women's prison at Tipton, Mo.

(Photo by Richard N. Levine)

AN ARCHITECTURAL IDEA FAIR will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 1 at WU. The fair will offer an opportunity for would-be builders or remodelers with limited budgets to talk with local architects and landscape architects and see some of their small project designs. The fair will feature exhibits, slide shows, panel discussions and short films. It is sponsored by the WU Schools of Architecture and Continuing Education in cooperation with the St. Louis Chapters of the American Institute of Architects and the Association of Landscape Architects. General admission is \$3.50 at the door; \$2.75 in advance, and \$1 for students with I.D. cards. For further information, call co-coordinators Charles Hook, 863-0100, ext. 4348, or Jean Pennington, ext. 4261.

THE WU OFFICE of Campus Programming will sponsor an off-campus resources fair from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 5 in Mallinckrodt Center. The fair is designed to offer students who are planning to live off campus next semester information on housing, leases, utilities, auto and renter's insurance, cost and preparation of food, and things to do in St. Louis. For further information call Kitty Madeson, 863-0100, ext. 4424.

A LOUNGE for residents of the WU Millbrook Apartment Complex is now open. The lounge is located in the basement of Building One, 6920 Millbrook.

WU Student To Compete In National Drama Festival

Steven Pasternack, theatre major at Washington University and winner of the Irene Ryan Foundation \$500 Acting Scholarship in regional competition, will compete in Washington, D.C. for one of two \$2000 scholarships at the American College Theatre Festival April 7-20. The Festival is presented by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Alliance for Arts Education and The Smithsonian Institution.

With his acting partner Tracy Smith, WU sophomore, Pasternack will appear in an "Evening of Scenes" in the Eisenhower Theatre, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He will compete with winners from the 12 other regions across the country. As central region winner, Pasternack was awarded in addition to the scholarship, travel expenses for the three-day residency in Washington in April.

Nominated for his performance as Shanty Mulligan in Washington University's Performing Arts Area fall production of *No Place To Be Somebody*, Pasternack gives special tribute for his success to the director of the play, Muthal Naidoo, assistant professor of drama and black studies at the University. As one of 17 finalists in the regional competition, he presented a scene from the Charles Gordone play and an excerpt from Ronald Ribman's *Fingernails Blue as Flowers*.

Pasternack from West Hartford, Conn., appeared in lead roles in the University's productions of *Ballad of the Sad Cafe* (Henry Macy) and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (policeman, monk and delegate). He also directed the Thyrsus production of *Incident at Vichy* and *The Zoo Story* on campus.

RECOGNITIONS

A BOOK ENTITLED *Solving the "Indian Problem": The White Man's Business*, by Murray L. Wax, professor and chairman of the WU Sociology Department, and Robert W. Buchanan, professor of American studies, Ottawa University, Kansas, has recently been published by New Viewpoints, division of Franklin Watts, publisher. The book is based upon news stories, feature items, and editorials in the *New York Times* over the past century. These are integrated and interpreted by the editors, who analyze the various shifts in federal Indian policies and the responses of the native Americans.

Calendar

Feb. 27-March 5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

4 p.m. Department of Chemistry Seminar, "Inter vs. Intra Molecular Electron Transfer in Bridged Binuclear Precursor Complexes," Prof. Stephan Isied, U. of California at Berkeley. 311 McMillen Lab.

4 p.m. Department of Anthropology Lecture, "Lemur Chromosomes—New Approaches to Taxonomy," Prof. John Buettner-Janusch, chairman, Dept. of Anthropology, N.Y.U., and vice-president American Association of Physical Anthropologists. 213 Rebstock. Coffee hour at 3 p.m., 125 McMillen.

4 p.m. Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Cellular and Developmental Biology Seminar, "Membrane Fusion", Dr. George Poste, Dept. of Experimental Pathology, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, N.Y. Moore Aud.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

12 noon. Missouri Gamma Chapter of Tau Beta Pi Luncheon Seminar, with Prof. Gustav K. Mesmer, WU Dept. of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, speaker. 201 Crow.

8 p.m. Department of English Poetry Reading by Giovanni Giudici, visiting professor and poet-in-residence, U. of Connecticut. In Italian, with translation by WU Hurst Professor Allen Mandelbaum. Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall.

8:30 p.m. School of Fine Arts and Department of Dance Lecture, "Abstraction in Dance and Painting," Selma Jean Cohen, editor, *Dance Perspectives*. Steinberg Aud.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Architectural Idea Fair, sponsored by the School of Architecture and School of Continuing Education. Givens Hall and Steinberg Aud. Pre-registration \$2.75 through Feb. 28. General admission, \$3.50; students, \$1. For more information call 863-0100, ext. 4261.

7:30 p.m. Founders Day Banquet, sponsored by the Alumni Association, with Art Buchwald, syndicated columnist, as main speaker. Chase-Park Plaza Hotel.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

4 p.m. Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Evolutionary Biology and Ecology Program Seminar, "Predation in Population Stability," Dr. William W. Murdoch, Dept. of Biological Science, U. of California at Santa Barbara. 213 Rebstock.

8 p.m. Dance, Drama, and Music, "Glimpses," a Thyrsus student concert. Mal-linckrodt Dance Studio.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Off-Campus Resources Fair, sponsored by the Office of Campus Programming, information day for students planning to live off campus next semester. Mal-linckrodt Center.

11 a.m. Wednesday Assembly Series, "Differential Perception of Legal Problems," Dean Soia Mentschikoff, U. of Miami School of Law and WU Tyrrell Williams Lecturer. Graham Chapel.

PERFORMING ARTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8 p.m. Drama, The American Mime Theatre, presenting its repertory for first time in midwest and premiering newest play "Six." General admission \$4.50; WU faculty/staff \$3.50; WU students \$2. Edison Theatre.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

8 p.m. Drama, "The Martial Arts in Action," with experts illustrating the origins, aesthetics, philosophy, discipline and grace of the martial arts utilizing lights, costumes and music. General admission \$4.50; WU faculty/staff \$3.50; WU students \$2. Edison Theatre.



Stacia Bevan is a flutist with the WU Wind Ensemble, which will give a free concert at 3 p.m. Sunday in Edison Theatre.

(Photo by Richard N. Levine)

FILMS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Dream Life," French with English sub-titles. Admission \$1. Brown Hall Theatre.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:30 and 9:45 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Cinderella Liberty" with James Caan; and midnight, "Rage" directed by George C. Scott. Admission \$1 for one feature, \$1.50 for both. Wohl Center Line D.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

2, 4:15, 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "Cinderella Liberty"; and midnight, "What's Up Doc" with Barbara Streisand and Ryan O'Neal. Admission \$1 for one feature, \$1.50 for both. Brown Hall Theatre.

9 p.m. Classic Film Series, Classic Unhappy Marriages. "Divorce, Italian Style" with Marcello Mastroianni, and "Taming of the Shrew" with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Admission 50 cents. Wohl Center Line D.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

2 and 4 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "What's Up Doc." Admission \$1. Brown Hall Theatre.

2:30 p.m. WU Special Film Series, "The Importance of Being Earnest." Admission \$1.25. Steinberg Aud.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "WR—Mysteries of the Organism," erotic political comedy by Czech director Dusan Makavejev, Serbo-Croatian with English sub-titles. Admission \$1. Brown Hall Theatre.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

7:30 and 9:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Series, "The Best of the New York Women's Film Festival." Admission \$1. Brown Hall Theatre.

EXHIBITIONS

"A la Pintura," an exhibition of work by the American artist Robert Motherwell, including trial proofs for the book of his prints in addition to works of art on loan from The Nancy Singer Gallery, The Greenberg Gallery, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Leavitt and the St. Louis Art Museum. Steinberg Hall, lower gallery. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays 1-5 p.m. Opens March 3.

Literary Manuscripts Exhibit, illustrating relationship of authors, editors and publishers working together to achieve publication of a literary work. Olin Library, fifth level. Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

International Women's Day Exhibit, featuring pictures of feminists from around the world and different historic periods. Olin Library, level three. Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-midnight; Friday 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-midnight. Opens March 3.

MUSIC

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

8 p.m. Highwood String Band, sponsored by Missouri Friends of the Folk Arts, featuring pre-bluegrass music with two fiddles, banjo, guitar and bass. Graham Chapel. Admission \$3 at the door. For more information and advance ticket prices call 863-0100, ext. 4996.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

3 p.m. Washington University Wind Ensemble Concert, with Dan Presgrave, director, and William D. Revelli, director emeritus U. of Michigan Bands and guest conductor. Edison Theatre.

7:30 p.m. Senior Voice Recital, Ann Herzberger, sponsored by the Department of Music. Graham Chapel.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

8 p.m. Missouri Friends of the Folk Arts (WU Chapter) Workshop, "Banjo" with Bob Abrams, Jim Olin and Larry Sugarman. Open environment for performers and audience. Women's Bldg. Lounge.

SPORTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

4 p.m. Swimming, WU Invitational, WU vs. U. of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis University, Principia, Northwest Missouri, William Jewell, Eureka and Westminster. Wilson Pool. (Also 9 a.m. Sat. March 1).

Regional Chemistry Profs Introduced to WU, St. Louis

It's not surprising that 55 chemistry professors from 37 Missouri, Illinois and Indiana colleges and universities attended a recent WU Chemistry Department meeting on problems in teaching chemistry. WU chemistry professors are national leaders in various areas of research.

"What surprised us was the large number of visitors from such nearby states who had never been to St. Louis," said David Gutsche, WU Chemistry Department chairman. "The meeting turned out to be very advantageous because our guests are now good ambassadors for the University. They were impressed by the attractiveness of our campus and with our facilities."

"More important, they were enthusiastic about meeting their counterparts from campuses in this region, and a useful exchange of ideas took place. We definitely will hold another meeting," Gutsche said.

The January 10-11 conference, called the first Regional Meeting of Chemical Educators, included a broad spectrum of schools, ranging from small private colleges to large state universities. It was concluded with an address by George S. Hammond, Vice Chancellor for Sciences at the University of California-Santa Cruz and winner of the 1974 American Chemical Society Award in Chemical Education.